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File 205

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Cottbus Airfield

25X1A

CONTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE PREPARED 8 February 1951

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 10 January 1951, the Cottbus (N 52/A 57) airfield was occupied by 28 aircraft. Thirteen twin-engine planes were parked at the take-off point, and one group of three planes and three groups of four planes were parked in front of the hangars. (1) There was continual flying, but the number of planes in the air could not be determined. All hangars but one were closed. The aircraft used for flying had single cockpits. The nose of this type plane is pointed slightly more than the nose of the double-cockpit planes. (2) The plane with two cockpits, however, generally appears to be somewhat thinner, and the two engines project beyond the upper edges of the wings. An antenna rod, fitted in front of the cockpit, has antennae leading to the two rudder assemblies.
2. There was intensive flying all day in a cloudless sky. The flights lasted about 10 minutes. The planes were refueled from tank trucks. After landing, the aircraft taxied to the take-off point on the grass near the runway. A radio truck with an extended directional loop antenna stood at the take-off point. Another radio with a whip antenna which was placed on the ground near the take-off point was surrounded by a group of pilots. The radar set was not erected, only its mast was there. (3)
3. The Burger Highway was strictly guarded during flying and blocked when take-offs and landings were made. The field path on the western edge of the landing field was graded and blocked from point 65.6 on the Cottbus-Dahlitz (N 52/A 47) road as far north as point 64.5.
4. Six groups of 15 anti-aircraft soldiers each were near the take-off point and observed the approaching aircraft through six battery commander's scopes. These groups probably belonged to the AA unit quartered in the Funker Kaserne because some soldiers were seen walking toward that caserne. Trucks [REDACTED] were seen at the entrance to the field. (4)
5. Five medium-sized containers which arrived recently were seen in the fuel dump north of the field. They were not put underground. (5)

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6. Between 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. on 16 January, 23 twin-engine, low-wing monoplanes with in-line engines and double rudder assemblies were seen in front of the hangars. The observation was made from the southern edge of the field. (1) No aircraft were seen in the one open hangar. Three of the parked aircraft which were not covered with tarpaulins were surrounded by approximately 20 men who were probably being instructed. The engines of the planes were started individually. 25X1A
7. The building material previously seen on the southern edge of the landing field was shipped away. Only three small temporary buildings were left. The runway was completed. The area where the building material was previously stored was being graded by about 40 to 50 men using a power shovel.
8. There was no flying on 16 January because of occasional showers and a cloud base of 800 meters. No night lighting facilities were on the new runway. [REDACTED] were seen.

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25X1A [REDACTED] Comments.

- (1) The number of aircraft indicates that the occupation of the airfield has not changed compared with the last report of 3 January 1951.

25X1A See [REDACTED] From the number of planes parked on the landing field it cannot be determined whether one or two bomber regiments are stationed there. According to another source, two bomber regiments are believed to be stationed in Cottbus. Therefore, more aircraft are believed to be parked in the hangars.

- (2) These two aircraft types have been observed at all airfields in the Soviet Zone of Germany which are occupied by bomber regiments. The employment of the two types, probably two versions of the PE-2, is not known.
- (3) The radar set was removed on 16 December 1950, and to date has not been re-erected.

(4)

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- (5) The arrival of new containers is reported for the first time. It is not known whether these are additional containers or replacements for old ones.

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